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EXAMINER	
SINGH, RACHNA	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2176	

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/932,789	INNES ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rachna Singh	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 August 2001*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendments filed 03/23/05.

2. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 9, and 16 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loveland, US 6,810,383 B1, 10/26/04 (filed 4/6/00, provisional filed 1/21/00).

In reference to claims 1 and 9, Loveland teaches an automated task management and evaluation system in which tasks to different service providers is provided. The task input system collects task information for processing. An Internet web-based form is automatically compiled and analyzed so that the information can be processed. See column 2, lines 1-20. Compare to ***"creating an initial statement of work in a predetermined format, the predetermined format of the initial statement of work having a plurality of sections;"*** Upon task information is compiled into the web-based form, the task may be assigned to a service provider. See column 2, lines 30-34. Compare to ***"associating a project for completion by the external source with the initial statement of work"***. Collecting task information for processing where information is automatically compiled into a web-based form. Once the task information

is sufficiently complete, the task is may be assigned to a service provider. See column 2. Compare to ***"entering information into at least one section of the plurality of sections of the initial statement of work to generate a project statement of work, the information entered into the initial statement of work pertaining to the project associated with the initial statement of work"***. Augmenting the task information by internal files or databases which may contain task requester data. See column 6, lines 7-10. The databases can store various information used by the embodiments of Loveland's system. See column 6, lines 28-35. Compare to ***"storing the project statement of work in a database"***. The system can perform analyses on the information gathered and inputted into the system. Analyses may be performed on task data, task requestor data, and other system information. A report to help a user analyze and predict trends can be generated from this analysis. Compare to ***"auditing the project statement of work"***. When the task information is complete, a service provider is selected and notified automatically via e-mail, telephone, cell phone, or other communication's media. See column 2, lines 43-52. When a task is assigned to a user, he may visit the site or base decisions on the graphical information such as digitized plans, photographs, and other information that may be provided through the systems and methods of the invention including the task information augmented by the databases. See columns 2-3. The information can be augmented by a site visit by the service provider. Compare to ***"transmitting a link to the external source having a location of the project statement of work in the database; and accessing, by the external source, the project statement of work with the transmitted link"***.

An initial statement of work in a predetermined format taught by Loveland's Internet based form in which task information that has been collected is automatically compiled and filled into. See column 2. A project statement is taught by Loveland's compiled Internet based form or web-form in which the task information is fed into. The external source is taught by Loveland's service providers. Loveland discloses the use of a web-based form in which information collected pertaining to the task is then compiled into the form. Since forms define a design or pattern of a document, it also includes a plurality of sections in which the task information is collected and compiled into. See column 2. Loveland teaches a system in which a link to the project is transmitted after the task information has been completed. Loveland's system includes financial information for the project. See figure 16 and column 15, lines 5-21. Loveland teaches that the system may perform analyses on the information gathered by the system and generate reports to help a user analyze and predict trends in their industry. These trends may be multi-tiered allowing the user to generate reports based on industry-wide data. Loveland's system further includes a contact and certification database that includes information needed to contact a service provider who may be available for a particular task assignment as well as information about service provider approval, acceptance, and certification. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement a compliance check with export and intellectual property controls because it would help identify any issues related to service provider capabilities as indicated by Loveland's certification and credentials check. See columns 7-8. Compare to ***"wherein the step of auditing. .***

.checking for authority to transmit the link having the location of the project statement of work to the external source; checking for inclusion of appropriate project financial information; checking for compliance . . .summarizing, in a report, entry of information into each section of the plurality of sections".

In reference to claims 2 and 10, Loveland teaches that the web-based forms are used to collect task information for processing. Task information may be text based, graphical, audible, or in other formats that are compiled and analyzed into the web-based forms. See column 2. Loveland further discloses that tasks related to different types of information can be defined for a specific project type. This could include technical data in a project that is intended for construction contractors or insurance industries. See column 5, lines 32-57.

In reference to claims 3 and 11, Loveland discloses a task input system that collects task information for processing. An Internet web-based form is automatically compiled and analyzed so that the information can be processed. See column 2, lines 1-20. Task information may be text based, graphical, audible, or in other formats that are compiled and analyzed into the web-based forms. See column 2. Loveland further discloses that tasks related to different types of information related to a type of project. This could include technical data. See column 5, lines 32-57. When the task information is complete, a service provider is selected and notified automatically via e-mail, telephone, cell phone, or other communication's media. See column 2, lines 43-52. When a task is assigned to a user, he may visit the site or base decisions on the graphical information such as digitized plans, photographs, and other information that

may be provided through the systems and methods of the invention including the task information augmented by the databases. See columns 2-3. The information can be augmented by a site visit by the service provider.

In reference to claims 4 and 12, Loveland teaches accessing the task information. When the task information is complete, a service provider is selected and notified automatically via e-mail, telephone, cell phone, or other communication's media. See column 2, lines 43-52. When a task is assigned to a user, he may visit the site or base decisions on the graphical information such as digitized plans, photographs, and other information that may be provided through the systems and methods of the invention including the task information augmented by the databases. See columns 2-3. The information can be augmented by a site visit by the service provider. Password protection may be used to keep sensitive information private when a service provider is reviewing task information. See column 3, lines 20-33.

In reference to claim 8, Loveland teaches that the task description can include information about a task that needs to be completed and any related information. This could include a job description and time limit (part of the event tracking and monitoring aspects of Loveland's system). See column 3, lines 45-61 and columns 1-2.

In reference to claims 5 and 13, Loveland teaches that the system may perform analyses on the information gathered by the system. The user may also generate reports to help a user analyze and predict trends in their industry. Loveland also discloses an event tracking and monitoring aspect to review quality, time of response, and other performance factors. Loveland's system further includes a contact and

certification database that includes information needed to contact a service provider who may be available for a particular task assignment as well as information about service provider approval, acceptance, and certification. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement an evaluation of project and external source export control issues because it would help identify any issues related to service provider capabilities as indicated by Loveland's certification and credentials check. See columns 7-8.

In reference to claim 16, Loveland teaches an automated task management and evaluation system in which tasks to different service providers is provided. The task input system collects task information for processing. An Internet web-based form is automatically compiled and analyzed so that the information can be processed. See column 2, lines 1-20. Compare to ***"a statement of work application to provide a statement of work for a project to an external source, the statement of work application being stored in the storage device of the server computer, the statement of work application further comprising;"*** Upon task information is compiled into the web-based form, the task may be assigned to a service provider. See column 2, lines 30-34. Collecting task information for processing where information is automatically compiled into a web-based form. Once the task information is sufficiently complete, the task is may be assigned to a service provider. See column 2. Augmenting the task information by internal files or databases which may contain task requester data. See column 6, lines 7-10. The databases can store various information used by the embodiments of Loveland's system. See column 6, lines 28-35. Compare

to ***"a database, the database storing information pertaining to the project and the statement of work. . .a statement of work template having a predetermined format. . .entry of information into a statement of work for a project"***. When the task information is complete, a service provider is selected and notified automatically via e-mail, telephone, cell phone, or other communication's media. See column 2, lines 43-52. When a task is assigned to a user, he may visit the site or base decisions on the graphical information such as digitized plans, photographs, and other information that may be provided through the systems and methods of the invention including the task information augmented by the databases. See columns 2-3. The information can be augmented by a site visit by the service provider. Loveland teaches that the web-based forms are used to collect task information for processing. Task information may be text based, graphical, audible, or in other formats that are compiled and analyzed into the web-based forms. See column 2. Loveland further discloses that tasks related to different types of information can be defined for a specific project type. This could include technical data in a project that is intended for construction contractors or insurance industries. See column 5, lines 32-57. Compare to ***"a submission wizard to evaluate a statement of work for completeness and to provide a statement of work to the external source; a technical data wizard to designate technical data associated with a statement of work; and at least on client computer . . .accessible on said at least one client computer"***.

An initial statement of work in a predetermined format is taught by Loveland's Internet based form in which task information that has been collected is automatically

compiled and filled into. See column 2. A project statement is taught by Loveland's compiled Internet based form or web-form in which the task information is fed into. The external source is taught by Loveland's service providers. Loveland discloses the use of a web-based form in which information collected pertaining to the task is then compiled into the form. Since forms define a design or pattern of a document, it also includes a plurality of sections in which the task information is collected and compiled into. See column 2. Loveland does not recite the term "submission wizard"; however, the wizard is used to evaluate the statement of work for completeness and provide it to an external source. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that Loveland's transmittal to a service provider upon completion of a task form would have a mechanism to recognize that the task had been completed. See columns 2-3 in which Loveland recites, ***"when task information is sufficiently complete, the task may be automatically assigned to a service provider"***. Thus Loveland suggests that there is a means to recognize that the task information entered into the form has been completed.

In reference to claim 17, Loveland teaches a system for creating task information which is compiled into the web-based form, the task may be assigned to a service provider. See column 2, lines 30-34. Collecting task information for processing where information is automatically compiled into a web-based form. Once the task information is sufficiently complete, the task is may be assigned to a service provider. See column 2. Augmenting the task information by internal files or databases which may contain task requester data. See column 6, lines 7-10. The databases can store various

information used by the embodiments of Loveland's system. See column 6, lines 28-35. Loveland teaches inputting information into the form. A form defines a design or pattern of a document and sections in which the task information is collected and compiled into. The user of the application enters information about the task which is then transferred to a service provider. The form can be transmitted via telephone, cell-phone, e-mail, or other communications media. Other communication media could include a printer. Furthermore, a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would recognize that printing a form received via email or other media such as a hyperlink would be capable of being printed, thus it would have been obvious to print the task form since it is transmitted to media from which forms can be printed.

In reference to claim 18, Loveland teaches that upon completion of the collection of task information, Loveland teaches that once task information is complete, a report analyzing the information can be prepared. The analyses can be performed on task data, or other system information. See columns 3-4. Loveland discloses a task input system that collects task information for processing. An Internet web-based form is automatically compiled and analyzed so that the information can be processed. See column 2, lines 1-20. Task information may be text based, graphical, audible, or in other formats that are compiled and analyzed into the web-based forms. See column 2. Loveland further discloses that tasks related to different types of information related to a type of project. This could include technical data. See column 5, lines 32-57. When the task information is complete, a service provider is selected and notified automatically via e-mail, telephone, cell phone, or other communication's media. See column 2, lines 43-

52. When a task is assigned to a user, he may visit the site or base decisions on the graphical information such as digitized plans, photographs, and other information that may be provided through the systems and methods of the invention including the task information augmented by the databases. See columns 2-3. The information can be augmented by a site visit by the service provider.

In reference to claim 19, Loveland teaches that the system may perform analyses on the information gathered by the system. The user may also generate reports to help a user analyze and predict trends in their industry. Loveland also discloses an event tracking and monitoring aspect to review quality, time of response, and other performance factors. Loveland's system further includes a contact and certification database that includes information needed to contact a service provider who may be available for a particular task assignment as well as information about service provider approval, acceptance, and certification. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement an evaluation of project and external source export control issues because it would help identify any issues related to service provider capabilities as indicated by Loveland's certification and credentials check. See columns 7-8.

8. Claims 7, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loveland, US 6,810,383 B1, 10/26/04 (filed 4/6/00, provisional filed 1/21/00) in view of Wright et al., US 6,581,040 B1, 6/17/03 (filed 2/18/00).

In reference to claims 7 and 15, Loveland teaches an automated task management and evaluation system in which tasks to different service providers is

provided. The task input system collects task information for processing. An Internet web-based form is automatically compiled and analyzed so that the information can be processed. See column 2, lines 1-20. Loveland teaches entering information into a form which comprises a plurality of sections; however, he does not explicitly mention deleting previously entered information and modifying information from the section. Wright teaches that a template for preparing specifications for a project are submitted by an owner. Wright discloses that his system allows for project owners to report changes and to make changes to the project specifications. See column 5, lines 48-51 and column 13, lines 20-25. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate an editing feature within the task information form in order to allow project owners or coordinators to make modifications to the tasks or project specifications because projects often require changes which in turn need to be relayed to the service providers or external sources.

In reference to claim 20, Loveland teaches an automated task management and evaluation system in which tasks to different service providers is provided. The task input system collects task information for processing. An Internet web-based form is automatically compiled and analyzed so that the information can be processed. See column 2, lines 1-20. Loveland teaches entering information into a form which comprises a plurality of sections; however, he does not explicitly mention deleting previously entered information and modifying information from the section. Wright teaches that a template for preparing specifications for a project are submitted by an owner. Wright discloses that his system allows for project owners to report changes

and to make changes to the project specifications. See column 5, lines 48-51 and column 13, lines 20-25. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate an editing feature within the task information form in order to allow project owners or coordinators to make modifications to the tasks or project specifications because projects often require changes which in turn need to be relayed to the service providers or external sources.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 03/23/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant amendments incorporated the limitations of dependent claim 6 into claim 1. The amended limitations have been addressed above.

Applicant argues Loveland fails to teach transmitting a link to an external source having a location of the project work statement in the database. Examiner respectfully disagrees as Loveland teaches that when a task is assigned to a user, he may visit the site or base decisions on the graphical information such as digitized plans, photographs, and other information that may be provided through the systems and methods of the invention including task information augmented by databases. See columns 2-3. Visiting a link requires the transmission of a link to the user's system as disclosed by Loveland in column 2, lines 30-67, "A task or assignment will automatically be transferred to another service provider. . ." and in column 3, lines 1-20.

Applicant argues Loveland fails to teach auditing a statement of work including the limitations incorporated from claim 6. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Loveland

teaches performing an analyses on the task information and generating a report to help a user analyze and predict trends. See columns 2-3. An initial statement of work in a predetermined format taught by Loveland's Internet based form in which task information that has been collected is automatically compiled and filled into. See column 2. A project statement is taught by Loveland's compiled Internet based form or web-form in which the task information is fed into. The external source is taught by Loveland's service providers. Loveland discloses the use of a web-based form in which information collected pertaining to the task is then compiled into the form. Since forms define a design or pattern of a document, it also includes a plurality of sections in which the task information is collected and compiled into. See column 2. Loveland teaches a system in which a link to the project is transmitted after the task information has been completed. Loveland's system includes financial information for the project. See figure 16 and column 15, lines 5-21. Loveland teaches that the system may perform analyses on the information gathered by the system and generate reports to help a user analyze and predict trends in their industry. These trends may be multi-tiered allowing the user to generate reports based on industry-wide data. Loveland's system further includes a contact and certification database that includes information needed to contact a service provider who may be available for a particular task assignment as well as information about service provider approval, acceptance, and certification. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement a compliance check with export and intellectual property controls because it would help

identify any issues related to service provider capabilities as indicated by Loveland's certification and credentials check. See columns 7-8.

Applicant argues that Loveland does not teach that files are attached to a corresponding section of a statement of work and that the information in the attached file corresponds to the section to which it is attached. Loveland teaches that the web-based forms are used to collect task information for processing. Task information may be text based, graphical, audible, or in other formats that are compiled and analyzed into the web-based forms. See column 2. Loveland further discloses that tasks related to different types of information can be defined for a specific project type. This could include technical data in a project that is intended for construction contractors or insurance industries. See column 5, lines 32-57.

Applicant argues that Loveland does not teach that a statement of work is assembled into and stored as a single statement of work package, such that the entire package can be accessed by a link transmitted to an external source. Examiner disagrees since Loveland discloses collecting task information for processing where information is automatically compiled into a web-based form. Once the task information is sufficiently complete, the task is may be assigned to a service provider. See column 2. Augmenting the task information by internal files or databases which may contain task requester data. See column 6, lines 7-10. The databases can store various information used by the embodiments of Loveland's system. See column 6, lines 28-35.

Applicant argues with respect to claim 16 that Loveland fails to teach a technical data wizard to designate technical data associated with a statement of work. Loveland

does not recite the term "submission wizard"; however, the wizard is used to evaluate the statement of work for completeness and provide it to an external source. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that Loveland's transmittal to a service provider upon completion of a task form would have a mechanism to recognize that the task had been completed. See columns 2-3 in which Loveland recites, ***"when task information is sufficiently complete, the task may be automatically assigned to a service provider"***. Thus Loveland suggests that there is a means to recognize that the task information entered into the form has been completed.

In view of comments above, the rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh whose telephone number is 571-272-4099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30AM-6:00PM). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RS
05/25/05

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER